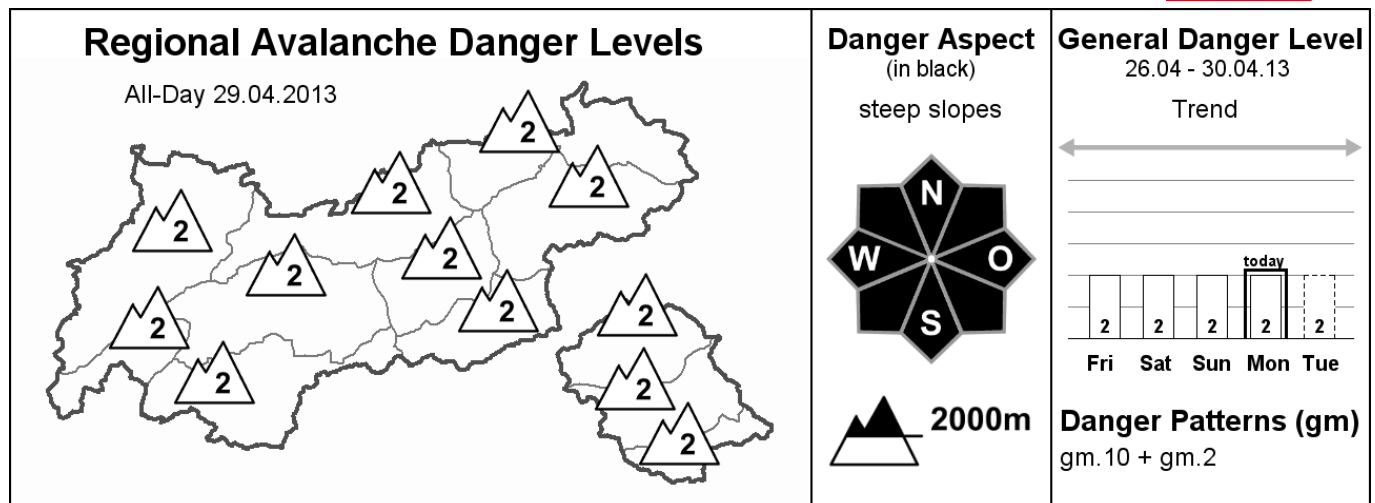


Avalanche Bulletin

of the Avalanche Warning Service Tyrol

Monday, 29.04.2013, at 07:30



Avalanche danger moderate widespread, beware wet avalanches

AVALANCHE DANGER

The avalanche danger remains at moderate level. The biggest threat is of wet, loose avalanches which can be triggered over the day by skiers or breaking cornices as the snowpack becomes wetter above about 2000m in extremely steep terrain. On steep, grassy slopes in addition, isolated full depth snowslides are triggering, especially where glide cracks have appeared in the snowpack surface. Backcountry tourers should head as high as possible as early as possible, not only due to avalanche hazards but also due to snow quality. A viable alternative would be tours on ski runs where winter operations have terminated.

SNOW LAYERING

The snow quality is poor, a crust capable of bearing loads formed only above 2500 m in North Tirol. Beneath it the snowpack is brittle and increasingly moist. Slabs can fracture from the wet mixture of melt-freeze layers and old depth hoar above 2200m in shady terrain where the snow is shallow. Elsewhere there are few weak layers, which explains the frequency of loose snow avalanches over the last few weeks. Stormy winds are cooling the snow cover, creating a positive influence in wind-exposed areas.

ALPINE WEATHER FORECAST (ZAMG-WEATHER SERVICE INNSBRUCK)

Weather: A low over the Iberian peninsula is still supplying the Alps with a southerly airstream with foehn-mild air masses and variable conditions. More cloud is evident on the southern flank of the Alps, together with showers. Mountain weather today: increasing cloud, intermittent sunshine (less in eastern regions). A line of showers can be drawn in western regions with the southerly wind. On the Main Alpine Ridge and southwards therefrom it is gloomier, peaks often shrouded in fog, frequent showers, snow above 2400-2900m. Temperature at 2000 m: 4-9 degrees; at 3000m: minus 1 to plus 3 degrees. Moderate southerly to southwesterly winds; in foehn-exposed and high alpine regions, reaching strong to storm strength.

SHORT TERM DEVELOPMENT

No significant change in the general situation

Patrick Nairz

Translated by Jeffrey McCabe